

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

FRANCHISE GROUP, INC., *et al.*,<sup>1</sup>

Debtors.

)  
) Chapter 11  
)  
) Case No. 24-12480 (LSS)  
)  
) (Jointly Administered)  
)  
) **Objection Deadline:**  
) **June 11, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)**

**SUMMARY OF  
FOURTH MONTHLY FEE  
STATEMENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP  
AS TAX, VALUATION, AND ACCOUNTING  
SERVICES PROVIDER TO THE DEBTORS FOR  
COMPENSATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED  
AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM MARCH 1, 2025 THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2025**

Name of Applicant: Ernst & Young LLP  
Authorized to Provide Professional Services to: Debtors and Debtors in Possession  
Date of Retention: November 3, 2024 (order entered January 7, 2025)

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM, LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy's Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy's Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260), Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123), Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies "Plus", LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors' headquarters is located at 2371 Liberty Way, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456.

Period for which compensation and reimbursement is sought:

March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025

Amount of Compensation sought as actual, reasonable and necessary:

\$440,736.00

80% of Compensation sought as actual, reasonable and necessary:

\$352,588.80

Amount of Expense Reimbursement sought as actual, reasonable, and necessary:

\$0.00

This is a(n) **X** monthly \_\_\_\_ interim \_\_\_\_ final application.

This application includes 6.4 hours and \$3,008.00 in fees incurred in connection with the preparation of fee applications.

Prior Applications:

		<b>Requested</b>		<b>Approved</b>	
<b>Date Filed / Docket No.</b>	<b>Period Covered</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
2/28/25 D.I. 1039	11/3/24 – 12/31/24	\$105,030.00	\$0.00	Pending	\$0.00
3/13/25 D.I. 1096	01/01/25-01/31/25	\$285,345.00	\$0.00	Pending	\$0.00
4/23/25 D.I. 1306	02/01/25-02/28/25	\$430,054.50	\$0.00	Pending	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$820,429.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Pending</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**SUMMARY OF BILLING BY PROFESSIONAL**  
**MARCH 1, 2025 THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2025**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Total Individual Fees</b>
Anwer, Sarah	Senior	12.9	\$400.00	\$5,160.00
Bakke, Don	Partner	1.0	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Blahnik, Rudy	Executive Director	0.2	\$1,150.00	\$230.00
Cagnina, Christine	Executive Director	3.5	\$1,150.00	\$4,025.00
Caruso, Thierry	Partner	1.2	\$750.00	\$900.00
Cook, Ali	Senior Manager	0.9	\$950.00	\$855.00
Cortez, Alfredo	Manager	0.7	\$500.00	\$350.00
Deravin, Susan	Senior Manager	58.7	\$600.00	\$35,220.00
Doherty, Julia	Senior	12.5	\$410.00	\$5,125.00
Galarza, Damien	Senior	137.9	\$400.00	\$55,160.00
Gatt, Katie	Senior Manager	7.3	\$950.00	\$6,935.00
Guerino, Frank	Executive Director	1.2	\$1,150.00	\$1,380.00
Hallford, Stephanie	Manager	0.5	\$625.00	\$312.50
Harvey, Elizabeth	Partner	0.4	\$1,250.00	\$500.00
Helwing, Dan	Partner	0.4	\$750.00	\$300.00
Hill, Andrea	Partner	10.0	\$900.00	\$9,000.00
Hill, Andrea	Partner	3.5	\$1,250.00	\$4,375.00
Hornecker, Peter	Partner	1.0	\$750.00	\$750.00
Hsiao, Elicia	Senior Manager	10.0	\$950.00	\$9,500.00
Huynh Tho vo, Le	Staff	57.0	\$275.00	\$15,675.00
Keefe, Michael	Senior Manager	0.5	\$950.00	\$475.00
Kooiker, Darcy	Executive Director	0.3	\$1,150.00	\$345.00
Korbitt, Brian	Partner	10.8	\$1,250.00	\$13,500.00
Lanns, Gerohn	Partner	0.5	\$750.00	\$375.00
Leno, Georges	Executive Director	42.5	\$700.00	\$29,750.00
Lewis, Jason	Staff	14.5	\$250.00	\$3,625.00
Lowe, Chade	Senior Manager	4.7	\$600.00	\$2,820.00
Lowman, Kathryn	Senior	6.9	\$600.00	\$4,140.00
McPhail, Ashley	Manager	0.5	\$850.00	\$425.00
Misek, Nick	Senior Manager	1.7	\$750.00	\$1,275.00
O'Connor, Lily	Senior	0.5	\$300.00	\$150.00
O'Connor, Lily	Senior	60.3	\$410.00	\$24,723.00
Rhodes, Brett Thomas	Partner	1.0	\$750.00	\$750.00

Name	Rank	Time	Hourly Rate	Total Individual Fees
Robison, Greg	Manager	3.3	\$500.00	\$1,650.00
Summers, Caroline	Staff	16.6	\$250.00	\$4,150.00
Sylvester, Bryan	Senior Manager	0.3	\$950.00	\$285.00
Thomason, Todd	Manager	1.2	\$850.00	\$1,020.00
Tucker, Howard	Partner	1.2	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00
Urbina, Mathew	Executive Director	12.3	\$875.00	\$10,762.50
Urbina, Mathew	Executive Director	0.5	\$1,150.00	\$575.00
Van Hargett, William	Senior	1.3	\$400.00	\$520.00
Wagler, Derrick	Partner	1.9	\$900.00	\$1,710.00
Wagler, Derrick	Partner	1.0	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Ward, James	Manager	34.3	\$500.00	\$17,150.00
Wasser, Michael	Executive Director	1.5	\$1,150.00	\$1,725.00
Wetherington, Trevor	Executive Director	8.4	\$875.00	\$7,350.00
Winfrey, Kelly	Senior Manager	0.3	\$650.00	\$195.00
Winfrey, Kelly	Senior Manager	124.4	\$750.00	\$93,300.00
Winfrey, Kelly	Senior Manager	3.4	\$950.00	\$3,230.00
Yuan, Kris	Staff	8.0	\$250.00	\$2,000.00
	<b>Non-Fixed Fee Total</b>	<b>685.4</b>		<b>\$387,728.00</b>

Kearl, Logan	Staff	7.4	Fixed Fee	
Ko, Lucy	Senior	27.0	Fixed Fee	
Larsen, Aaron	Manager	5.6	Fixed Fee	
O'Connor, Lily	Senior	2.4	Fixed Fee	
Winfrey, Kelly	Senior Manager	1.0	Fixed Fee	
	<b>Vector Tax Depreciation - Fixed Total</b>	<b>43.4</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

Name	Rank	Time	Hourly Rate	Total Individual Fees
Doherty, Julia	Senior	26.3	Fixed Fee	
Huynh Tho vo, Le	Staff	8.2	Fixed Fee	
O'Connor, Lily	Senior	5.1	Fixed Fee	
	<b>2024 Tax Compliance - Fixed Total</b>	<b>39.6</b>		<b>\$50,000.00</b>
Ingram, Connie	Manager	6.4	Hourly	\$3,008.00
	<b>Preparation of Fee Applications - Total</b>	<b>6.4</b>		<b>\$3,008.00</b>
	<b>Consolidated Total</b>	<b>774.8</b>		<b>\$440,736.00</b>

**Blended Hourly Rate: \$568.84**

**STATEMENT OF FEES BY PROJECT CATEGORY**  
**MARCH 1, 2025 THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2025**

<b>Time Category</b>	<b>Category Descriptions</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Total Fees</b>
State Notice and State Audit Assistance	Assistance with state notices and state audits.	0.8	\$345.00
IRS Audit Assistance	Assistance with the Franchise Group New HoldCo, LLC 2019 IRS audit and Appeals process.	42.3	\$35,110.00
Debt Restructuring Tax Assistance	Assistance with tax implications of various restructuring scenarios.	53.1	\$53,770.00
Valuation Assistance	Annual goodwill and long lived asset impairment testing.	56.7	\$17,755.00
Accounting Assistance	Assistance with technical accounting applicable standards for financial reporting.	282.8	\$142,875.00
Routine On-Call Services	Miscellaneous assistance related to bankruptcy administration along with guidance on status of Form 1139, Application for Tentative Refund.	10.3	\$7,722.50
2024 Tax Provision Assistance	Assistance with 2024 tax provision preparation.	239.4	\$130,150.50
Vector Tax Depreciation (Fixed fee)	Compute tax depreciation for the tax years ending 12/28/2024 and 12/27/2025.	43.4	\$0.00
2024 Tax Compliance (Fixed fee)	Preparation of tax returns for the years ended December 30, 2023 and December 28, 2024, inclusive of extensions and quarterly estimated payments, if required.	39.6	\$50,000.00
Preparation of Fee Applications	Preparation of fee applications in format required by the Court.	6.4	\$3,008.00
	<b>Non-Fixed Fee Total</b>	<b>691.8</b>	<b>\$390,736.00</b>
	<b>Fixed Fee Total</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
	<b>Consolidated Total</b>	<b>774.8</b>	<b>\$440,736.00</b>

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**FOURTH MONTHLY  
FEE STATEMENT OF ERNST  
& YOUNG LLP AS TAX, VALUATION, AND  
ACCOUNTING SERVICES PROVIDER TO THE DEBTORS  
FOR COMPENSATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED  
AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM MARCH 1, 2025 THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2025**

Pursuant to sections 330 and 331 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.* (the “Bankruptcy Code”), rule 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM, LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy’s Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy’s Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260), Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123), Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies “Plus”, LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors’ headquarters is located at 2371 Liberty Way, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456.

of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”), and the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Estate Professionals* [D.I. 353] (the “Interim Compensation Order”), Ernst & Young LLP (“EY LLP”) hereby files this Fourth monthly fee statement (this “Monthly Fee Statement”), for allowance of compensation for professional services performed by EY LLP during the period commencing March 1, 2025 through and including March 31, 2025 (the “Fee Period”). In support of the Monthly Fee Statement, EY LLP respectfully states as follows:

### **Background**

1. On November 3, 2024 (the “Petition Date”), each of the Debtors filed with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Court”) a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code (collectively, the “Chapter 11 Cases”). The Debtors are authorized to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. On January 7, 2025, the Court entered the *Order (I) Authorizing the Retention and Employment of Ernst & Young LLP as Tax, Accounting and Valuation Services Provider Effective as of November 3, 2024, and (II) Granting Related Relief* [D.I. 669] (the “Retention Order”) authorizing the retention and employment of EY LLP as the Debtors’ tax, accounting, and valuation services provider, effective as of the Petition Date.

### **Relief Requested**

3. By this Monthly Fee Statement and in accordance with the Interim Compensation Order, EY LLP makes this application for (i) allowance of compensation in the amount of \$440,736.00 for reasonable and necessary professional services rendered, (ii) payment of compensation in the amount of 80% thereof (*i.e.*, \$352,588.80) and (iii) payment of \$0.00 for actual and necessary expenses incurred.



**A. Compensation Requested**

4. The services performed by EY LLP during the Fee Period included tax, accounting, and valuation services approved pursuant to the Retention Order. Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a detailed itemization, by project category, of all services performed by EY LLP during the Fee Period with respect to the Chapter 11 Cases. This detailed itemization complies with Local Rule 2016-1 in that (a) each time entry contains a separate time allotment, a description of the type of activity and the subject matter of the activity; (b) all time is billed in tenth-hour or half-hour increments; (c) time entries are presented chronologically in categories; and (d) all meetings are detailed with specificity and individually identified.

5. The timekeepers who rendered services related to each category are identified in **Exhibit A**, along with the number of hours for each individual, the position of each individual, and a description of the specific tasks performed by each individual. All services for compensation were performed for, or on behalf of, the Debtors.

**B. Expense Reimbursement**

6. EY LLP did not incur any out-of-pocket expenses during the Fee Period.

**Valuation of Services**

7. EY LLP's professionals have expended a total of 774.8 hours in connection with this matter during the Fee Period.

8. The amount of time spent by each of the EY LLP's professionals providing services to the Debtors for the Fee Period is set forth in **Exhibit A**. The rates charged are EY LLP's normal hourly rates of compensation for work of this character. The reasonable value of the services rendered by EY LLP for the Fee Period as tax, accounting, and valuation services provider for the Debtors in the Chapter 11 Cases is \$440,736.00 (80% thereof is \$352,588.80).

9. EY LLP believes that the time entries included in **Exhibit A** are in compliance with the requirements of Local Rule 2016-1.

10. In accordance with the factors enumerated in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, the amount requested is fair and reasonable given (a) the complexities of the Chapter 11 Cases; (b) the time expended; (c) the nature and extent of the services rendered; (d) the value of such services; and (e) the costs of comparable services other than in a case under this title.

WHEREFORE, EY LLP respectfully requests that the Court (i) approve the Monthly Fee Statement and (ii) grant such further relief as is just and proper.

May 21, 2025

/s/ Andrea Hill

Andrea Hill  
Partner/Principal  
Ernst & Young LLP

**CERTIFICATION OF ANDREA HILL**

I, Andrea Hill, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, to the best of my knowledge and belief, and after reasonable inquiry, hereby certify that:

1. I am a Partner/Principal with Ernst & Young LLP (“EY LLP”), and I am duly authorized to make this certification on behalf of EY LLP. EY LLP was retained by Franchise Group, Inc. and its affiliated debtors (collectively, the “Debtors”). This certification is made in support of the *Fourth Monthly Fee Statement of Ernst & Young LLP as Tax, Accounting, and Valuation Services Provider to the Debtors for Compensation for Professional Services Rendered and Reimbursement of Expenses Incurred for the Period from March 1, 2025 Through and Including March 31, 2025* (the “Monthly Fee Statement”) and in compliance with rule 2016-1 of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”).

2. I have read the Monthly Fee Statement, and I certify that the Monthly Fee Statement substantially complies with Local Rule 2016-1.

3. The facts set forth in the foregoing Monthly Fee Statement are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

May 21, 2025

/s/ Andrea Hill  
Andrea Hill  
Partner/Principal  
Ernst & Young LLP